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Reds Hunt Data About Shipping Centers in U. S.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 21. (UP). Russian satellite countries and "travelers" in the United States have been asking "highly suspicious" questions about harbor and transportation facilities in New Orleans, port and union officials disclosed today.

The port of New Orleans moves more freight than any other in the country except New York. The Army reported yesterday that Russian intelligence agents were hunting industrial and shipping information throughout the United States.

Battle Plan Information

Such information, the Army said, "could find its way into order of battle plans for strategic bombing, sabotage or invasion."

Lewis E. Bourgeois, director of commerce for the port of New Orleans, said a library in an obscure Polish city had written him a letter saying its files on New Orleans "had been lost due to fire." The police library wanted the dock board to "send information to replace what was lost."

Bourgeois said the letter made him instantly suspicious. He wrote back to the library and demanded specific questions about the information it wanted. Bourgeois has not received a reply.

Suspicious "Czech Traveler"

Dock board officials believed there were similar "suspicious" inquiries in their files. But they said the files were locked up today and it would be impossible to get into them before Monday.

They cited the case of a "Czech traveler" who appeared recently and exhibited papers, purportedly from the U. S. Department of Commerce. The officials said the papers looked all right, but they were still suspicious.

They questioned the Czech at length, "to see whether he would slip his hand." They still weren't satisfied after the questioning, so they finally handed the Czech "a bunch of literature we would give to anybody, anyway."

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W. H. Tamm

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